THE ORVILLE™

SEASON 2.5 | LAUNCH DAY

DAVID A. GOODMAN
DAVID CABEZA
MICHAEL ATIYEH

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DARK HORSE BOOKS

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The Orville Season 2.5: Launch Day
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AFTER J. MOORE
D. Cabeza 2020

LAUNCH DAY PART 1

TWENTY YEARS AGO. SCIENCE VESSEL *BOHR*, IN ORBIT OF THE ALIBAR HOMEWORLD.

"ED, THIS DUTY SUCKS."

SCV-119 BOHR

GORDON, REGULAR SHUTTLE MAINTENANCE IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANY JOB ON THE SHIP.

KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT.

SCV-119-1

GENTLEMEN...

...IS THAT SHUTTLE READY?

YES, SIR. WE WERE JUST COMPLETING ROUTINE MAINTENANCE.

VERY GOOD.

OUR PLEASURE, SIR. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL US ROUTINE SHUTTLE MAINTENANCE IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANY JOB ON THE SHIP. WE KNOW THAT ALREADY.

YES... WELL, MALLOY, PREP THE SHUTTLE TO TAKE YCIL TO THE SURFACE.

AYE AYE, SIR...

I'M SORRY TO LOSE YOU, YCIL.

THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. IT'S BEEN AN HONOR SERVING WITH YOU.

IT WAS A PLEASURE SERVING WITH YOU, YCIL.

SCV-119-1

YES, IT WAS... ENSIGN... UH...

I'M ED MERCER.

ED, OF COURSE, SORRY.

SO, DO YOU KNOW WHY YOUR HOMEWORLD HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE THE UNION?

NEW GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. THAT'S ALL I KNOW. HOPEFULLY, THEY'LL REALIZE IT'S A MISTAKE, TED.

UH... ED.

HOW MANY SHIPS DID YOU SAY, BORTUS?

EIGHT KRILL SHIPS, CROSSING INTO UNION SPACE.

LET'S SEE 'EM.

EVEN WHEN THEY'RE NOT SHOOTING THEY LOOK MEAN.

AND THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL.

LET'S NOT ASSUME THEY'VE THROWN OUT THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS JUST YET.

GORDON, PLOT AN INTERCEPT COURSE. PUT US RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM.

"WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS..."

...CAPTAIN MERCER?

UM... SORRY, HAVE WE MET?

IT WAS MY SHIP THAT PURSUED YOU WHEN YOU CROSSED INTO KRILL SPACE TWELVE MONTHS AGO.

OH. YOU GUYS... STILL UPSET ABOUT THAT?

IT IS OF NO CONCERN. WE ARE ON A VITAL MISSION TO THE ALIBAR SYSTEM.

MAY WE ASK WHY?

WE OWE YOU NO EXPLANATION. ALIBAR IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE UNION.

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT ISN'T. BUT YOU NEED TO CROSS UNION SPACE TO GET THERE...

AND SOME MIGHT CONSIDER THAT AN ACT OF WAR.

WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THE UNION. AT LEAST NOT YET.

BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED WE KEEP IT THAT WAY. WOULD YOU MIND BRIEFING US ON YOUR MISSION?

VERY WELL. PLEASE ADJUST THE LIGHTING ON YOUR SHIP.

WE HAVE BEEN MONITORING THE ALIBAR SYSTEM, AND DETECTED THIS.

WHAT IS IT?

IT IS A MASSIVE WEAPON THEY HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTING FOR YEARS.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S A WEAPON?

WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE? IT IS PUTTING OUT LARGE AMOUNTS OF QUANTUM INTERFERENCE TO HIDE ITS PURPOSE.

ALIBAR IS LESS THAN ONE PARSEC FROM THE KRILL HOMEWORLD. WE MUST DESTROY IT.

WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE ALIBAR IN TWO DECADES. ATTACKING THEM WITHOUT WARNING IS A LITTLE RASH.

AND EVEN IF IT IS A WEAPON, YOU HAVE NO PROOF THEY INTEND TO USE IT AGAINST YOU.

WE CANNOT WAIT FOR "PROOF"! THE "PROOF" MAY BE THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR HOMEWORLD!

LOOK...

YOU CAN'T CHARGE ACROSS OUR TERRITORY TO ATTACK A PEACEFUL SOCIETY, EVEN IF THEY AREN'T A MEMBER OF THE UNION.

I HAVE MY ORDERS.

OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE FINALLY TALKING. LET'S NOT PUT THAT IN JEOPARDY.

GIVE ME SOME TIME TO INVESTIGATE.

RIDICULOUS. WHY SHOULD WE AGREE TO THAT?

BECAUSE YOU MIGHT BE WRONG.

I WILL TAKE IT UP WITH MY GOVERNMENT.

"TALLA, RAISE ADMIRAL OZAWA AT FLEET HEADQUARTERS."

WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE KRILL GOVERNMENT...

THEY HAVE AGREED TO ALLOW YOU TWO DAYS TO INVESTIGATE.

TWO DAYS? THEY DIDN'T GIVE US A LOT OF TIME.

WELL, THE FACT IS, WE DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE MORE THAN THAT EITHER.

WE ANALYZED THEIR DATA. WHATEVER THIS STRUCTURE IS, ITS ENERGY OUTPUT HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING. IT MAY POSE A THREAT TO US.

BUT ALIBAR WAS SUCH A PEACEFUL WORLD.

THE OPERATIVE WORD THERE IS "WAS."

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED THERE IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY THEY LEFT THE UNION.

SO YOUR ORDERS ARE TO INVESTIGATE, DETERMINE THIS OBJECT'S FUNCTION. AND IF IT IS A WEAPON...

...YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO ASSIST THE KRILL IN ITS DESTRUCTION.

A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE? THE UNION HAS NEVER STARTED A WAR.

WE HAVE NEVER HAD TO. BUT ALL OUR ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT THE ALIBAR GOVERNMENT HAVE GONE UNANSWERED.

WE DON'T KNOW THE NATURE OF THIS, BUT YOUR ORDERS ARE TO PROTECT THE UNION FROM AN ATTACK. OZAWA OUT.

SO WE'RE TEAMING UP WITH THE KRILL?

ONLY IF WE FIND OUT IT'S A WEAPON. BUT YES.

IF IT IS A WEAPON, THEN ATTACK IS NECESSARY.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YET.

ISAAC, GIVE US EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ON ALIBAR.

THE ALIBAR WERE MEMBERS OF THE UNION UNTIL TWENTY POINT SEVEN YEARS AGO. THEY WERE A DEMOCRATICALLY RULED SOCIETY, ON A TECHNOLOGICAL SCALE EQUIVALENT TO EARTH.

UPON REMOVING THEMSELVES FROM THE UNION, THEY HAVE FORBIDDEN OUTSIDERS INTO THEIR SYSTEM.

AND ADMIRAL OZAWA SAID EVEN THE ADMIRALTY DOESN'T KNOW WHY THEY WITHDREW THEIR UNION MEMBERSHIP.

AFFIRMATIVE. THE ALIBAR GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO STATE A REASON.

IT WAS THE DECISION OF A NEWLYELECTED LEADER IS ALL THEY SAID.

HEY ED, REMEMBER THAT GUY ON THE *BOHR*, WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

YCIL, YEAH.

WE HAD TO TAKE HIM HOME WHEN THEY WITHDREW FROM THE UNION.

YOU'VE BEEN TO ALIBAR?

I DIDN'T LEAVE THE *BOHR*. BUT GORDON DID.

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER MUCH...

SHUT UP, YOU'RE GOING.

IF THEY DON'T LIKE OUTSIDERS, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO INVESTIGATE.

WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO NEED CLAIRE'S HELP...

THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN ALIBARAN BIOLOGY. THIS DISGUISE WON'T FOOL A SCANNER.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO COUNT ON THE FACT THAT SINCE THEY DON'T WANT VISITORS, THEY'RE ALSO NOT EXPECTING THEM.

SHOULD I MAKE A "I'M GREEN WITH ENVY" JOKE? I DON'T HAVE ONE BUT I CAN PITCH ON IT.

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT.

BORTUS, YOU'RE IN COMMAND. TWO DAYS IS NOT A LOT OF TIME...

I WILL ENSURE THAT THE KRILL DO NOT ATTACK BEFORE THEN.

WELL, THEY DO OUTNUMBER YOU. BY A LOT...

...SO PROBABLY WANT TO DO YOUR BEST NOT TO START AN ARGUMENT.

I WILL TAKE THAT SUGGESTION. GOOD LUCK.

"THE UNION VESSEL HAS LAUNCHED ITS SHUTTLE."

AND THEY HAVE ACTIVATED THEIR INVISIBILITY SCREEN.

VERY WELL. COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER SHIPS AN ATTACK PLAN TO DESTROY THE *ORVILLE*.

IF THEY DECIDE TO STAND IN OUR WAY, I WANT THEM ELIMINATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

"GORDON, DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU DROPPED YCIL OFF?"

YEAH, IT WAS THE CAPITAL CITY.

OKAY, THAT'S AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY. TAKE US TO THE OUTSKIRTS.

ARE YOU EXPECTING TO FIND HIM?

I DON'T KNOW HOW WE WOULD. BUT IT AT LEAST INCREASES OUR ODDS.

CAPTAIN...

...THE CONSTRUCT, WHATEVER IT IS, IS SITUATED ON THE FAR SIDE OF THEIR SUN. CAN'T GET A GOOD READ ON IT.

AFTER YOU DROP US OFF, GET AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE.

AND STAY IN REGULAR CONTACT.

BRING US BACK A SOUVENIR.

DID WE FORGET TO COME UP WITH NAMES AGAIN?

OH, CRAP.

"FATHER, WHAT IS THE SHIP DOING HERE?"

ECV-197 ORVILLE

THE KRILL ARE ON A MISSION TO DESTROY SOMETHING THEY CONSIDER TO BE A THREAT.

IS IT A THREAT?

WE DO NOT KNOW. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT.

IT IS A FOOLISH MISSION.

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

IF WE HAD NOT STOPPED THEM AND THE WEAPON IS A THREAT, THE KRILL WILL HAVE RELIEVED US OF IT.

AND IF IT WAS NOT A THREAT?

THEN A PLANET WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WOULD HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY THE KRILL.

THEY MAY BE INNOCENT.

NO ONE IS INNOCENT. AND YOU AND YOUR CAPTAIN RISK THE LIVES OF YOUR FAMILY PROTECTING A RACE WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT, A PLANET THAT ISN'T EVEN A MEMBER OF THE UNION.

DO WE NOT WANT TO TEACH OUR SON THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE PART OF SOMETHING LARGER THAN OURSELVES? WORKING FOR A GREATER GOOD?

I DID NOT CHOOSE TO WORK FOR THIS "GREATER GOOD."

I JUST HOPE YOUR CAPTAIN HAS NOT GOTTEN US INTO ANOTHER ONE OF HIS MESSES.

YOU EXAGGERATE. THE CAPTAIN HAS NEVER LET US DOWN.

THAT IS SOMETHING ON WHICH WE ALSO DISAGREE.

THIS PLACE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE PICTURES.

YEAH...

IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE GONE DOWNHILL SINCE THEY LEFT THE UNION.

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU TWO...

ARE YOU LOST?

NO, WE'RE JUST... NEW TO TOWN.

VISITORS NEED TO REGISTER.

OH, OF COURSE...

YEAH, THAT'S JUST WHERE WE WERE HEADED...

TO GO REGISTER. JUST ONE QUESTION...

WHERE DO WE GO TO REGISTER?

THERE'S A REGISTRATION OFFICE DOWN THAT STREET.

THEY DON'T LIKE VISITORS.

EVEN ONES FROM THEIR OWN PLANET.

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HOW A SOCIETY COULD FALL THIS FAR THIS FAST.

IT'S TIME WE GOT ANSWERS.

ALSO, LUNCH.

THERE YOU ARE.

SO DID YOU COOK THIS YOURSELF?

OF COURSE I DID. HOW ELSE DOES FOOD GET MADE?

YOU DON'T HAVE FOOD SYNTHESIZERS?

OH, HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THOSE IN YEARS. MAYBE THE RICH STILL GOT 'EM. AFTER LAUNCH DAY, MAYBE WE'LL ALL GET ONE OF THOSE AGAIN.

SURE. LAUNCH DAY.

THAT'S GOING TO FIX EVERYTHING. YOU JUST WAIT. FINALLY GET THIS WORLD BACK TO THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

OH SURE.

YEAH, LAUNCH DAY. WHEN IS THAT AGAIN?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IT'S TOMORROW. YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN LAUNCH DAY IS?

OH, WE KNEW.

SURE. I WAS JUST JOKING.

WELL, IT CAN'T COME SOON ENOUGH FOR ME. OTHERWISE I MIGHT HAVE TO SHUT THIS PLACE DOWN.

REALLY? WHY?

PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD TO EAT OUT DON'T EAT HERE.

"AFFORD."

YOU'RE STILL USING MONEY.

WHAT IS THAT, ANOTHER JOKE? AND SINCE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IT, THAT'LL BE FIFTY DRACHAS.

POLICE! STOP THEM!

THIS IS NOT GOING WELL.

YOU HAD TO HAVE LUNCH.

JOHN, THIS IS INSANE...

THE CLOSER WE GET TO THAT THING OUT THERE, THE HARDER IT IS TO PILOT.

NAVIGATION'S A MESS, TOO. IT'S MAKING ME THINK THE KRILL ARE RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, THAT MUCH INTERFERENCE IS GOING TO PLAY HAVOC WITH WEAPON GUIDANCE SYSTEMS.

AND IF WE CAN'T AIM OUR WEAPONS, WE'RE TOAST. SPACE TOAST.

BOOM.

ANY SIGN OF POLICE?

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

ACCORDING TO OUR HISTORY OF ALIBAR, THEY DIDN'T USE MONEY FOR OVER A CENTURY.

JUST LIKE EARTH. ONCE THERE WERE SYNTHESIZERS YOU DIDN'T NEED IT.

BUT NOW IT'S BACK.

HOW DOES A SOCIETY TAKE SUCH A GIANT LEAP BACKWARD?

ATTENTION, CITIZENS.

IS HE TALKING TO US?

LAUNCH DAY IS UPON US. OUR ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS HAVE SPENT DECADES ON THIS PROJECT AND IT HAS FINALLY COME TO FRUITION.

WHEN I WAS ELECTED TWENTY YEARS AGO, IT WAS WITH A PROMISE. A PROMISE FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF OUR WORLD. AND WE KNEW WHAT STOOD IN OUR WAY...

OUTSIDERS! THE ALIENS OUT IN THE GALAXY WHO HAD INFILTRATED OUR WORLD. THEY ARE STILL AMONG US, STILL UNDERMINING OUR SUCCESS, OUR HAPPINESS. BUT NO LONGER.

FOR TOMORROW IS LAUNCH DAY AND WHEN TOMORROW COMES, THE OUTSIDERS WILL NO LONGER BE A THREAT TO THE PEOPLE OF ALIBAR. REJOICE, MY FRIENDS, TOMORROW YOUR PROBLEMS END.

IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HE'S KIDDING.

SO WHATEVER THAT THING IN SPACE IS, IT LAUNCHES TOMORROW.

WE NEED MORE INFORMATION. AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET IT HIDING IN ALLEYS.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR OLD SHIPMATE?

REMEMBER THE COP? HE TOLD US TO GO REGISTER. IF YCIL STILL LIVES HERE...

...THEN MAYBE HE'S REGISTERED. GOOD IDEA.

MALLOY TO MERCER, WE'RE APPROACHING THE THING...

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

WELL, IT'S HARD TO SAY FOR SURE...

...BUT IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE A GIANT WEAPON.

LAUNCH DAY PART 2

TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE. EVEN THIS CLOSE...

...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A READING ON WHAT'S INSIDE.

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO KNOW? IT'S A BIG DANGEROUS BALL.

WE HAVE TO BE SURE IT IS A WEAPON...

...SO YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO FIND SOME WAY ONBOARD.

ED, THERE COULD BE A THOUSAND TROOPS INSIDE. AND WE DON'T HAVE BLUE SKIN.

I KNOW IT'S NOT EASY, BUT WE'RE TRYING TO PREVENT THE KRILL FROM OBLITERATING THIS PLANET.

GET ME AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN. MERCER OUT.

WHAT DO WE DO?

FIND A DOOR.

LOOKS LIKE THE PARTY'S GETTING STARTED.

TRANSLATOR SAYS THIS IS THE REGISTRATION OFFICE...

EXCUSE ME...

WE'RE CLOSING SOON, IT'S LAUNCH DAY.

WE'RE JUST TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE.

WHAT'S THE NAME?

YCIL.

YCIL WHAT?

UH... I DON'T HAVE ANOTHER NAME.

WELL, AT LEAST YOU'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO THE THREE MILLION PEOPLE NAMED YCIL. GOODBYE.

WAIT...

HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE PLANETARY UNION FLEET TWENTY YEARS AGO.

I'M SURE YOU KEEP TRACK OF ANYONE WHO WAS EVER OFF PLANET, RIGHT?

OF COURSE WE DO. I'LL CHECK THE FILES.

GOOD CALL.

FIGURED THEY'RE SO PARANOID ABOUT OUTSIDERS, THEY HAD TO KEEP TRACK OF THAT.

NOW WE JUST HAVE TO FIND THIS ADDRESS.

LOOKS LIKE A MAINTENANCE HATCH.

QUESTION IS, WHAT HAPPENS IF WE TRY TO DOCK? THEY'VE GOT TO DETECT US THEN.

I'M NOT DETECTING ANY SENSOR ARRAYS NEARBY, BUT EVEN SO I GOT AN IDEA...

THAT THING'S PUTTING OUT SO MUCH QUANTUM INTERFERENCE, IF WE MATCH OUR QUANTUM ENGINE'S OUTPUT TO THEIR FREQUENCY, THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DETECT US.

"SHOULDN'T"? OR "WON'T"?

STAND BY TO DOCK.

YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION.

WE'RE DOCKED.

THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

WE HAVEN'T OPENED THE DOOR YET.

MANUAL LOCK. LOOKS PRETTY STRAIGHTFORWARD. READY?

NO.

WHOOSH

LIKE I THOUGHT, MAINTENANCE TUNNEL.

WONDER IF ANYONE'S HOME.

WONDER IF ANYONE'S HOME.

WHO'S OUT THERE?

LOOKS LIKE IT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YCIL.

HE'S DEAD. WHAT DID YOU WANT WITH HIM?

OH NO, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT. WERE YOU HIS MOTHER?

YES. SO WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANTED FROM HIM...

I DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING FROM HIM. I'M AN... OLD FRIEND.

YCIL DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

WELL, LIKE I SAID, WE WERE OLD FRIENDS. FROM AROUND THE TIME HE WAS IN THE UNION FLEET.

DON'T BRING THAT UP.

OKAY, BUT... DO YOU MIND IF WE ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?

IT'S LAUNCH DAY, DON'T YOU HAVE SOME PLACE TO BE BESIDES BOTHERING AN OLD LADY ABOUT HER DEAD SON?

NO.

FINE, COME IN.

"COMMANDER, I AM DETECTING NEW READINGS..."

...THE KRILL SHIPS HAVE ACTIVATED THEIR QUANTUM DRIVES.

LIEUTENANT KEYALI, RAISE THEM.

YOU'RE ON, SIR.

CAPTAIN KRATOK, WHY ARE YOU POWERING UP YOUR ENGINES?

I HAVE DECIDED WE HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH.

THAT IS NOT YOUR DECISION TO MAKE.

AND WHO IS GOING TO STOP ME FROM MAKING IT?

ME.

YOU ARE ONE SHIP. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP MY FLEET.

THAT IS CORRECT. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP YOUR FLEET, BUT WE WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO YOUR SHIP BEFORE WE ARE DESTROYED.

SO, SOME OF OUR SHIPS WILL RECEIVE DAMAGE...

NOT "SOME SHIPS." YOUR SHIP.

LIEUTENANT, PLEASE GIVE THE COMMANDER A STATUS REPORT.

ALL THE *ORVILLE'S* WEAPONS ARE LOCKED ON TO COMMANDER KRATOK'S SHIP...

...SPECIFICALLY THE SHIP'S BRIDGE.

I WILL CONSIDER A SLIGHT DELAY.

KRATOK OUT.

NICE JOB, COMMANDER.

YOU AS WELL, LIEUTENANT.

YOU WANT ME TO LOCK ALL OUR WEAPONS ON TO HIS SHIP NOW, IN CASE HE DECIDES NOT TO DELAY?

THAT WOULD BE ADVISABLE. I HOPE THE CAPTAIN AND THE OTHERS MAKE SOME PROGRESS SOON.

WE HAVE MADE NO PROGRESS AT ALL.

IS THIS WHOLE THING MAINTENANCE TUNNELS? SHOULDN'T WE BE CLIMBING OUT OF AN AIR VENT INTO SOMEONE'S QUARTERS AND WAKING UP A HALF-DRESSED BLUE LADY?

I'M NOT READING ANY VENTS...

BUT I AM DETECTING THE SOURCE OF THE QUANTUM INTERFERENCE.

INTERFERENCE

MAYBE WE GO TO IT AND WE CAN FIND OUT WHAT IT'S HIDING.

I HOPE IT'S HIDING A KITCHEN. I'M STARVING.

...SO YOU KNEW YCIL WHEN HE LEFT THE UNION FLEET?

YES. I REMEMBER HE DIDN'T WANT TO RESIGN.

THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT. HE HATED PRET, GOT HIM INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE.

PRET?

YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE LEADER OF OUR PLANET FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS?

OH, THAT PRET.

HOW DID YCIL DIE?

HE STOPPED TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF. ALWAYS WANTED TO LEAVE ALIBAR AGAIN, BUT THAT WASN'T AN OPTION. I DON'T KNOW IF HE WAS BITTER BECAUSE HE GOT SICK, OR GOT SICK BECAUSE HE WAS BITTER. IN ANY CASE, MEDICINE ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE AND HE DIED.

IT'S SUCH A SHAME.

IT'S A SHAME HE COULDN'T KEEP HIMSELF ALIVE FOR LAUNCH DAY, WHEN ALL OUR PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED.

UH... YEAH... THAT IS THE SHAME OF IT.

HE JUST COULDN'T ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE INVADERS WERE KILLING US. INVADERS HE HELPED BRING INTO OUR WORLD BY BEING PART OF THAT UNION.

AND, LAUNCH DAY WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT... RIGHT?

WELL, THEY WOULDN' T HAVE PUT ALL OUR MONEY INTO THE QUANTUM SHIFTER IF IT WASN'T GOING TO WORK, RIGHT?

RIGHT, OF COURSE.

I'LL GET US SOME REFRESHMENTS. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

THIS ALL SOUNDS LIKE A FAMILIAR PATTERN. BLAMING THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR THE ILLS OF SOCIETY...

AND THE GOVERNMENT USING THAT FEAR TO JUSTIFY SOME KIND OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

RIGHT, BUT HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A "QUANTUM SHIFTER"?

NO, BUT MAYBE JOHN HAS...

MERCER TO LAMARR, ANY UPDATE?

WELL, WE'VE FOUND THE ENGINE CORE...

IT'S THE BIGGEST QUANTUM REACTOR I'VE EVER SEEN. IT'S THE CAUSE OF ALL THE INTERFERENCE.

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO BUILD SOMETHING THIS BIG... JUST TO HIDE SOMETHING ELSE.

I DON'T THINK IT IS HIDING ANYTHING.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I THINK IT'S A SIDE EFFECT OF ITS FUNCTION. THIS WHOLE STATION IS ONE GIANT QUANTUM ENGINE, AND IT JUST NATURALLY PUTS OUT THAT MUCH INTERFERENCE.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY QUARTERS, OR ANYTHING INDICATING A CREW. BUT WHAT'S IT FOR?

WAIT A SECOND... JOHN, IS THAT ENGINE BIG ENOUGH TO SHIFT THIS WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEM TO ANOTHER QUANTUM PLANE OF EXISTENCE?

THEORETICALLY. BUT WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT?

THE LEADERS, THEY CAME TO POWER TWENTY YEARS AGO. THEY'VE STOKED FEAR AND PARANOIA AMONG THE PEOPLE TO KEEP THEMSELVES IN POWER.

THAT'S WHY THEY WITHDREW FROM THE UNION.

THEY COULD ISOLATE THE SOCIETY, AND BLAME OUTSIDERS FOR THE FACT THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT DOESN'T CARE FOR THEM ANYMORE...

...AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO TAKE ISOLATIONISM TO A RIDICULOUS LENGTH, AND BUILD A WALL AROUND THEIR WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEM.

CAPTAIN, THERE'S JUST BEEN A SPIKE IN THE POWER READINGS. LOOKS LIKE WHATEVER THIS THING WAS BUILT TO DO...

...IT'S ABOUT TO DO IT. I ESTIMATE TWO HOURS.

GORDON, JOHN, GET OUT OF THERE AND COME PICK US UP.

ON OUR WAY...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

OH, WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY.

FOR LAUNCH DAY.

I DON'T THINK SO.

WE WILL NEED TO SEE YOUR IDENTIFICATION.

I LEFT IT IN MY OTHER PANTS.

ME TOO.

INVADERS! YOU'RE GOING AWAY FOREVER!

YEAH, LADY, SO ARE YOU.

QUIET.

"COMMANDER BORTUS, I HAVE NEW READINGS..."

...THE QUANTUM INTERFERENCE HAS INCREASED TWENTY-SEVEN PERCENT.

AND THE KRILL SHIPS ARE MOVING TOWARD US.

LT. KEYALI, RAISE KRATOK.

WE MUST PROTECT OUR PEOPLE. SO IF YOU STAND IN OUR WAY, YOU CAN TAKE ME WITH YOU, BUT MY FLEET IS PROCEEDING...

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, WE WILL JOIN YOU.

WE ALSO HAVE A PEOPLE TO PROTECT, AND THE READINGS INDICATE ACTION IS NECESSARY.

VERY WELL. THEN STAND WITH US...

"...AND MAY AVIS GUIDE OUR WAY."

THE GREAT MOMENT IS UPON US. IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, WE WILL BE LIVING IN OUR OWN UNIVERSE...

...IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, ALL THREATS TO OUR PEOPLE WILL BE GONE. IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, WE WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO LIVE AS WE WERE MEANT TO LIVE.

SO I GUESS WE HAVE LESS THAN AN HOUR TO GET OUT OF HERE.

SOUNDS LIKE IT.

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYTIME SOON.

WHO ARE YOU?

INSPECTOR BAGLISH. AND WHO ARE YOU?

I'M SURE YOU'RE ABOUT TO TELL US.

YES...

...THIS IS UNION EQUIPMENT. YOU'RE INVADERS FROM THE UNION. THERE'S NO POINT IN DENYING IT.

WE KNEW WE COULDN'T KEEP IT A SECRET. SHOULD WE TELL HIM THE REST?

YOU... GO AHEAD.

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT AT THE UNION. WE'RE TAKING OVER.

WHY?

WE... CAN'T STAND YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

WELL, YOU'RE TOO LATE. WE'LL BE OUT OF REACH IN A FEW MINUTES.

YOU WOULD'VE BEEN, IF WE HADN'T SABOTAGED THE QUANTUM SHIFTER.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.

WE DON'T CARE IF YOU BELIEVE US...

...AND WHEN THE QUANTUM SHIFTER LAYS A HUGE GALACTIC FART, I'M GOING TO ENJOY TELLING LEADER PRET THAT YOU KNEW AHEAD OF TIME AND DID NOTHING ABOUT IT.

GET 'EM OUT.

BUT, SIR...

NOW!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

TO OUR GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

CAN WE JUST STOP FOR A SECOND?

WHY?

WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE ON THE STREET, I WANT TO MAKE SURE MY HELMSMAN HAS A CLEAR SHOT.

WHAT...?

COMSCANNERS LED US RIGHT TO YOU. BUT GLAD YOU CAME OUTSIDE, WE WERE ABOUT TO STORM THE PLACE.

NO.

REALLY?

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

JOHN, TRY TO RAISE THE *ORVILLE*.

SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD, CAPTAIN...

"...THEY'RE PRETTY CLOSE BY."

BORTUS, GET US ONBOARD, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.

THE KRILL FLEET IS MOVING TO ATTACK THE WEAPON.

IT'S NOT A WEAPON. PATCH ME THROUGH TO KRATOK.

...IT'S A QUANTUM SHIFTER. IT'S GOING TO REMOVE THIS WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEM FROM OUR GALAXY.

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE SUCH FAIRY TALES?

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S THE TRUTH.

AND I'M TELLING YOU, WHATEVER IT IS, MY SHIPS AND I ARE GOING TO DESTROY IT.

YOU CAN WITHDRAW LIKE A COWARD. GOODBYE, CAPTAIN.

WE'RE DOCKED, SIR.

BORTUS, TAKE US OUT OF THE SYSTEM, MAXIMUM SPEED.

THE QUANTUM SHIFTER HAS ACTIVATED...

PUT IT ON THE SCREEN.

THEY DID IT. THEY BUILT A WALL AROUND THEIR WHOLE WORLD.

YEAH. AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT IT WON'T SOLVE ANY OF THEIR OLD PROBLEMS.

PLUS THEY'VE GOT A BIG NEW ONE...

"COMMANDER, THE DEVICE IS DESTROYED."

IT WAS CLEARLY BUILT TO BE USED ONCE.

AND WHERE ARE WE?

EXCEPT FOR ALIBAR, THERE ARE NO OTHER STARS.

PERHAPS THE UNION CAPTAIN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH.

IF THAT IS THE CASE, IF THIS IS A DIFFERENT REALITY, AND THIS IS THE ONLY PLANET, THEN WE KNOW WHAT THE ANKHANA SAYS.

"INVADE AND CONQUER!"

HEROES PART 1

FOURTH PLANET CIRCLING THE SUN DESIGNATED HR 5070.

FIVE YEARS AGO.

"THE GENERAL STOOD OVER THE LITTLE GIRL...

"...AND SAID, 'NOW, YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU DESERVE.' AS THE GENERAL BROUGHT HIS SWORD UP, A VOICE CAME FROM ABOVE, AND SAID, 'WHAT SHE DESERVES IS AN APOLOGY.' THE GENERAL AND THE LITTLE GIRL LOOKED UP, AND STANDING ON TOP OF THE BUILDING...

"...STOOD XANDIA, HERO OF THE OKUDUM..."

IT'S SUCH AN EXCITING STORY. I WISH I COULD STAY TO HEAR THE END OF IT.

YOU HAVE TO GO?

I'M SORRY.

MOTHER, GET HER TO STAY! SHE'S GOT TO HEAR HOW XANDIA WAS A FARM GIRL LIKE ME, WHO STOOD UP TO FREE OUR PEOPLE.

AKI, TALLA ALREADY KNOWS.

EVERY OKUDUM KNOWS THE STORY OF XANDIA.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY FOR A LONELY TRAVELER.

PLEASE COME BACK AGAIN SOON.

YES, PLEASE...

I'LL TRY.

"WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU ABOARD, ENSIGN..."

SCV-618 WILSON

...DID YOU DISCOVER WHY THEY'RE PHYSICALLY SO SIMILAR TO XELAYANS?

NO, SIR. THERE ARE NO APPARENT SIMILARITIES TO XELAYA CULTURALLY...

...AND NO TRACE OF THE INCREASED STRENGTH THAT WOULD COME FROM BEING BORN ON OUR HOME WORLD. THERE HAVE BEEN THEORIES THAT SUGGEST XELAYA WAS VISITED IN ITS PREHISTORY, AND THAT OUR RACE WAS SEEDED ON OTHER WORLDS.

THAT PROBABLY ANSWERS THE NEXT QUESTION ABOUT THE DYSONIUM DEPOSIT.

THE OKUDUM HAVE A VERY PEACEFUL, IDYLLIC SOCIETY. MINING DYSONIUM WOULD BE VERY DISRUPTIVE.

YOU SEEM QUITE TAKEN WITH THE PLACE.

WELL, I WOULD JUST HATE TO SEE SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL DESTROYED.

WELL, ENSIGN, GOOD WORK. AND YOU'RE NOW THE ONLY LIVING EXPERT ON THE OKUDUM.

THAT'S RIGHT. ANY SHIP THAT COMES BACK HERE IS GOING TO NEED YOU TO TELL THEM WHAT'S WHAT.

SO TALLA, GIVEN WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON HERE?

FIVE YEARS LATER.

I HAVE NO IDEA, SIR. THE NATIVES HAD NO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. IT'S INCONCEIVABLE THAT IN FIVE YEARS THEY'D BE ABLE TO DEVELOP...

"...A QUANTUM REACTOR."

ISAAC, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A SPACESHIP OF SOME KIND. BUT IT IS NOT A CONFIGURATION I AM FAMILIAR WITH.

WELL, WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE.

I'LL POINT OUT, CAPTAIN, THAT WHEN CAPTAIN MOSLEY SENT ME DOWN, I WENT ALONE BECAUSE OF MY PHYSICAL SIMILARITY TO THE NATIVES.

YOU WERE PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. THEY'VE GOT A QUANTUM REACTOR DOWN THERE NOW.

STILL, WE CAN COVER OUR HEADS. KELLY, YOU HAVE THE BRIDGE. HAVE DR. FINN AND LAMARR MEET US IN MAIN SHUTTLEBAY.

AYE, SIR...

WE'LL TAKE A LOW-LEVEL FLYBY FIRST, SEE WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.

AYE, SIR. ACTIVATING CLOAK.

HOW LONG WERE YOU ON THE PLANET, TALLA?

A FEW DAYS. IT WAS LOVELY. THEY LIVE OFF THE LAND, TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT. IT SHOWED ME THAT YOU DON'T NEED TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE A PARADISE.

MAYBE. BUT ONE THING YOU CAN BE SURE OF...

...TECHNOLOGY CAN DO A GOOD JOB OF SCREWING ONE UP.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

SOME KIND OF MINING OPERATION.

CLAIRE, CHECK THE DATABASE, SEE WHAT WE HAVE ON THAT SPECIES.

DATABASE SAYS THEY'RE THE NAZH. NOT MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

WE NEED MORE INFORMATION. JOHN AND I WILL GET CLOSER TO THAT SHIP. TALLA, TAKE DR. FINN AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THOSE PEOPLE YOU STAYED WITH.

AYE, SIR.

HEY, HOW ABOUT A SIP OF THAT...

YOU CAN GET IT FROM THE WELL YOURSELF.

WE DON'T WANT IT FROM THE WELL.

IT TASTES BETTER FROM YOUR BUCKET.

SO, ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME A TASTE?

YOU HEARD HER...

THERE'S PLENTY OF WATER IN THE WELL. YOU NEED ME TO SHOW YOU?

NO.

TALLA, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S YOU!

I BARELY RECOGNIZED YOU, AKI, YOU'RE SO GROWN UP.

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

THIS IS MY FRIEND, CLAIRE. CAN WE TALK TO YOU AND YOUR PARENTS?

YES, COME, WE SHOULDN'T BE OUTSIDE TOO LONG...

THIS IS PROBABLY AS CLOSE AS WE SHOULD GET.

THAT'S DEFINITELY DYSONIUM IN THAT WHEELBARROW.

THEY DON'T GOT A TON OF MACHINERY FOR DIGGING IT OUT.

SLAVE LABOR SAVES ON THE WEAR AND TEAR OF YOUR EQUIPMENT.

ESPECIALLY WHEN THE LABOR'S DISPOSABLE. WORKING DYSONIUM ORE WITH YOUR HANDS IS GOING TO MAKE YOU REAL SICK, REAL FAST.

THEY CAME ABOUT A YEAR AGO, AND SAID WE HAD TO WORK IN THEIR MINE.

OUR LEADERS STOOD UP TO THEM AND WERE KILLED.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SICK?

I'M NOT SICK, I JUST NEED SOME REST.

THEY HAVE SAID THEY WILL LEAVE WHEN THEY HAVE FINISHED MINING THE ORE.

WHAT?

WELL, IT'S JUST THAT COULD TAKE A LONG TIME. WE THINK THERE'S A LOT OF IT.

"WE"?

IT'S A LONG STORY.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE. IF ILIS FINDS YOU, HE'LL PUT YOU TO WORK TOO.

ILIS?

THE FOREMAN. HE IS A BUTCHER.

YOU UP THERE!

UH-OH.

TIME TO GO...
YUP.
GET AFTER THEM!
HALT!
THEY'RE FAST! WE MAY NOT OUTRUN THEM...
I'M ON IT. RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT BIG ROCK.

WE'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS WE CAN.

HERE, I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING.

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GIVE IT TO ME?

IT'S FOR KIDS. I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.

WE SHOULD GO.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR EXCUSES.

FOREMAN, PLEASE, JUST LOOK...

THE FOOTPRINTS END.

HMMM.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT MEANS WE MAY HAVE MEDDLERS.

"ED, I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION..."

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. THE NAZH AREN'T IN THE UNION, AND THEY ARE NOTORIOUSLY UNINTERESTED IN WHAT WE THINK.

BUT SIR, THEY'VE ALL BUT ENSLAVED THE OKUDUM.

YES, BUT IF YOU INTERFERE WITH THEIR OPERATION, THEY COULD VERY EASILY SEE IT AS AN ACT OF WAR.

...AND THE UNION DOESN'T NEED ANY MORE ENEMIES RIGHT NOW.

EXACTLY.

WE CAN'T JUST ABANDON THESE PEOPLE!

ADMIRAL, I'D LIKE YOUR PERMISSION TO GO TO THE NAZH HOMEWORLD, AND SEE IF WE CAN OPEN TALKS.

REQUEST DENIED.

YOU NEED TO GET TO THE OUTPOST ON ROCHELLE BEFORE SANDSTORM SEASON BEGINS. I'LL PURSUE THE DIPLOMATIC ROUTE FROM HERE. PERRY OUT.

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THAT.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING?

WE HAVE OUR ORDERS.

WE'VE VIOLATED ORDERS BEFORE, CAPTAIN--

TALLA, THAT'S ENOUGH.

SIR, MAYBE IF WE CONFRONTED THE NAZH.

YEAH, THESE GUYS MAY NOT EVEN HAVE THEIR GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION TO BE HERE.

WE CONVINCE THEM TO LEAVE AND THEN WHAT? THEY JUST COME BACK WHEN WE'RE GONE.

WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP!

SOMETIMES THERE'S NO SOLUTION. WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE THE HEROES!

BULLSHIT!

CRAAACK

WE'RE GONNA NEED A NEW TABLE.

TALLA?

WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE ALL RIGHT.

THANKS, I APPRECIATE IT.

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A BOOK MY FRIEND AKI GAVE ME. XANDIA IS A FOLK HERO OF THE OKUDUM. SHE HELPED FREE THEM FROM A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP.

IT'S TOO BAD SHE'S NOT REAL.

THEY COULD USE HER RIGHT NOW.

BEEP

COME IN.

LIEUTENANT.

CAPTAIN... I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY BEHAVIOR. IT WAS UNCALLED FOR.

FORGET IT. WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE. I REALLY WISH THERE WAS MORE WE COULD DO, TOO.

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WAS GOING TO TAKE A FEW DAYS' LEAVE. I COULD USE A LITTLE TIME OFF.

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.

THANKS. ALSO... DR. FINN AND COMMANDER LAMARR ARE COMING WITH ME.

I SEE. I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO ASK QUESTIONS... BUT ALSO DON'T WANT TO ASK QUESTIONS.

PROBABLY WISE, SIR.

HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

GET UP!

HE'S LATE FOR HIS SHIFT.

HE NEEDS REST!

HE CAN REST WHEN HE'S DEAD.

YOU'LL KILL HIM!

DON'T TOUCH ME!

AHHH!

YOU DESERVE MORE THAN THAT!

I AGREE. SHE AT LEAST DESERVES AN APOLOGY.

XANDIA...?

IN THE FLESH.

HEROES PART 2

"THEY'RE GOING TO SHOOT AT YOU..."

27 HOURS AGO.

...WHICH IS WHY I MADE THIS OUT OF MOCLAN BODY ARMOR, WITH SOME ADDED REINFORCEMENT. THEIR WEAPONS AREN'T AS POWERFUL AS OURS, SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE A FEW SHOTS, NO PROBLEM. BUT THE THING I'M REALLY PROUD OF...

...IS THE SWORD. MADE IT FROM A PIECE OF HULL PLATING...

"...CAN CUT THROUGH ALMOST ANYTHING."

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH A SWORD?

A LITTLE...

"...BUT I CAN IMPROVISE."

I AM XANDIA, THE PROTECTOR OF THESE PEOPLE. TELL ILIS I SAID...

...TO GET OFF OUR WORLD. GO!

ARE YOU REALLY...?

I AM REALLY A FRIEND. TAKE CARE OF YOUR FATHER.

I DIDN'T REMEMBER THAT XANDIA COULD FLY... OR EVEN THAT SHE WAS REAL.

OH, SHE'S REAL...

AND I KNOW WHO SHE IS.

"NO BROKEN BONES..."

...LOOKS LIKE THE ARMOR DID ITS JOB.

THE QUESTION IS, DID THEY BUY IT?

EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T...

THEY'LL BE COMING AFTER ME. WHICH IS WHAT WE WANT.

"SHE DID WHAT?"

MMMMMMM

SHE SLICED OUR WEAPONS WITH HER SWORD.

AND YOU NEEDED WEAPONS TO DEFEAT ONE WOMAN?

SHE WAS UNUSUALLY STRONG. SHE THREW ME WITH ONE HAND SEVERAL METERS.

WE CAN'T LEAVE THIS ATTACK UNANSWERED. ALL WE NEED IS FOR THE OKUDUM TO THINK THEY CAN FIGHT BACK. DEPLOY THE JUGGERNAUT.

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS.

WE WILL FIND HER AND CAPTURE HER.

NO, YOU IDIOT...

YOU WILL FIND HER AND KILL HER.

LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT THEMSELVES AN RV.

I'VE GOT TO LEAD THAT TANK AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE. IT SHOULD ALSO CREATE ENOUGH OF A DIVERSION FOR YOU TWO TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO DO WHAT YOU NEED TO.

THAT COSTUME ISN'T GOING TO PROTECT YOU FROM THAT TANK'S GUN.

DON'T NEED TO REMIND ME.

IF YOU'RE HIDING THE ONE CALLED XANDIA, YOU WILL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE!

YOU'RE LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE!

HI! HOW'S IT GOING?

GET US UP THERE! BRING THE MAIN GUN AROUND.

YOU GUYS READY?

WE'RE IN POSITION...

...JOHN'S GOT A DIRECT LINE OF SIGHT TO THE DRILL.

GOOD. I SHOULD HAVE EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION...

...IN JUST A COUPLE OF SECONDS.

FIRE!

UH, SIR...

PROBABLY WANT TO TELL THEM TO DROP THEIR GUNS.

DROP YOUR GUNS!

THEY'VE FOUND HER! COME ON!

THEY'RE DISTRACTED.

I'M IN. JUST NEED A FEW SECONDS TO ALTER THE DRILL'S OPERATING SYSTEM... AND BOOM!

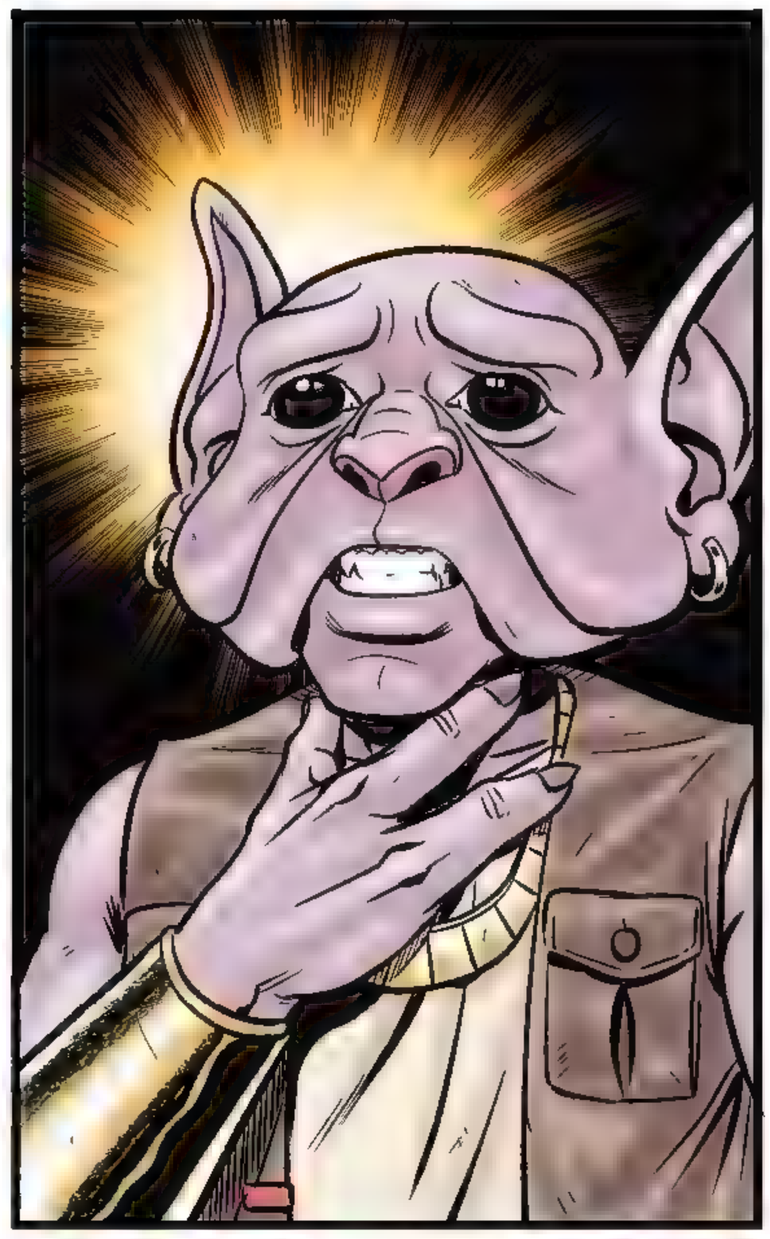
YOU MEANT THAT LITERALLY.
WHAT?
BOOM.
WHAT HAPPENED?
I DON'T KNOW, SIR, SOME KIND OF OVERLOAD.
FOREMAN ILIS, THE JUGGERNAUT IS RETURNING.
WHAT IN BLAZES...

THERE'S A NOTE ON HIS CHEST.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

"ILIS, YOU'RE NEXT."

UHHHH...



IDLE THREATS. UNTIE THEM, AND REPAIR THAT DRILL. I'LL BE IN MY QUARTERS.

YES SIR.

GET MY NOTE?

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

IT WASN'T THAT HARD.

JUST AS WELL. I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF...

WILL YOU NOW?

I GUESS I'VE BEEN TOO SUBTLE. WHAT PART OF "LEAVE THIS PLANET NOW" DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

I WON'T LEAVE.

OH, YOU WON'T? WHY NOT?

BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE IN YOU.

YOU ARE CLEARLY FROM A PLANET WITH A HEAVIER GRAVITY, YOU ALSO HAVE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, AN INVISIBLE SHIP OF SOME KIND, AND ADVANCED BODY ARMOR.

ALL THIS MAY IMPRESS THESE PRIMITIVE OKUDUM, BUT NOT ME. YOU BELONG TO SOME CIVILIZATION, SOME PEACE-LOVING GROUP THAT DOESN'T BELIEVE IN KILLING. MY MEN HAVE BEEN TRYING TO KILL YOU SINCE THE FIRST MOMENT THEY SAW YOU, YET YOU'VE AVOIDED KILLING ANY OF THEM. SO DESPITE YOUR THREATS, YOU WON'T KILL ME.

YOU CAN'T BE SURE OF THAT.

I'M NOT.

BUT WHAT I AM SURE OF IS IF I ABANDON THIS OPERATION, MY SUPERIORS ON NAZH WILL CERTAINLY EXECUTE ME. SO I HAVE NO CHOICE. I HAVE TO STAY.

KILL ME IF YOU CAN.

I WON'T KILL YOU...

CRSSHHH

...TONIGHT AT LEAST.

"HE'S SMARTER THAN HE LOOKS..."

...IF WE CAN'T CONVINCE HIM TO LEAVE WITHOUT KILLING HIM, THEN WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

DOESN'T LEAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS.

THERE'S ONE. I CAN STAY.

WHAT? THAT'S INSANE.

YEAH, COME ON, YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHAT? LIVE HERE AND BE THEIR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN?

THE CAPTAIN WAS RIGHT. I TRIED TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM AND JUST MADE THINGS WORSE.

LIKE IT OR NOT, WHEN I PUT ON THIS COSTUME I MADE A COMMITMENT TO THESE PEOPLE. I HAVE TO HELP THEM FIGHT. BUT YOU TWO SHOULD GO BACK.

WELL, I'M NOT LEAVING. AND WE BOTH OUTRANK YOU, SO YOU CAN'T ORDER US.

WE STILL HAVE A FEW DAYS LEFT BEFORE WE'RE AWOL, MAYBE WE CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

"I THINK I KNOW WHO SHE IS..."

LAST WEEK, I TOLD A LOCAL GIRL TO FETCH ME SOME WATER. ANOTHER VILLAGER INTERFERED. WHEN XANDIA ACCOSTED ME ON THE JUGGERNAUT, I KNEW IT WAS HER. I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS, BUT THE GIRL DOES.

EXCELLENT.

"YOU'RE LOOKING SO MUCH BETTER, FATHER."

I JUST NEEDED A LITTLE REST.

AND HE NEEDS TO EAT. GO GET THAT WATER SO I CAN PREPARE SUPPER.

YES, MOTHER.

IT'S LATE, I SHOULD GO.

DON'T WORRY, IT'S SAFE, WITH "XANDIA" LOOKING AFTER US.

TALLA, YOU BETTER COME TAKE A LOOK.

IS THAT YOUR FRIEND'S HOUSE?

OH NO...

WHERE IS THE GIRL?

WE DON'T KNOW!

FINE.

OH MY GOD...

I JUST WENT OUT TO GET SOME WATER.

AKI, I'M SORRY--

AHHHHH!

TAKE HER BACK TO THE SHIP.

OHHHH...

THIS IS YOUR SAVIOR...

SHE IS NO HERO. SHE HAS MADE YOUR LIVES WORSE. SHE DESTROYED THE DRILL, SO THINK OF HER AS YOU ALL HAVE TO DIG WITH YOUR HANDS...

...HER DEATH SHOULD BE SOMETHING YOU WILL CELEBRATE.

IN A MOMENT, THIS ENGINE WILL BE TURNED ON, AND SHE WILL BE INCINERATED. THE REWARD FOR THE DISCORD SHE CAUSED.

I'LL TAKE OUT THE GUARDS, YOU FREE TALLA.

REMEMBER THE DEATH OF XANDIA! REMEMBER THIS MOMENT-- AHHH!

YOU REALIZE WE'RE ABOUT TO START A WAR WITH THE NAZH?

YEAH. I'M USUALLY SMARTER THAN THIS.

OH MY GOD...

SHE IS NOT XANDIA, I AM! AND WE *WILL* REMEMBER THIS MOMENT!

AHHHH!

AKI... NO.

SSHTUMP

YOUR LEADERS ARE DEAD. GET ON YOUR SHIP, AND GET OUT. OR THIS FATE AWAITS YOU.

AKI, I'M SO SORRY.

YOU CAN GO.

WE DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE.

"YOU CAN'T HOLD YOURSELF RESPONSIBLE..."

...IF YOU'D DONE NOTHING, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OKUDUM WOULD HAVE DIED?

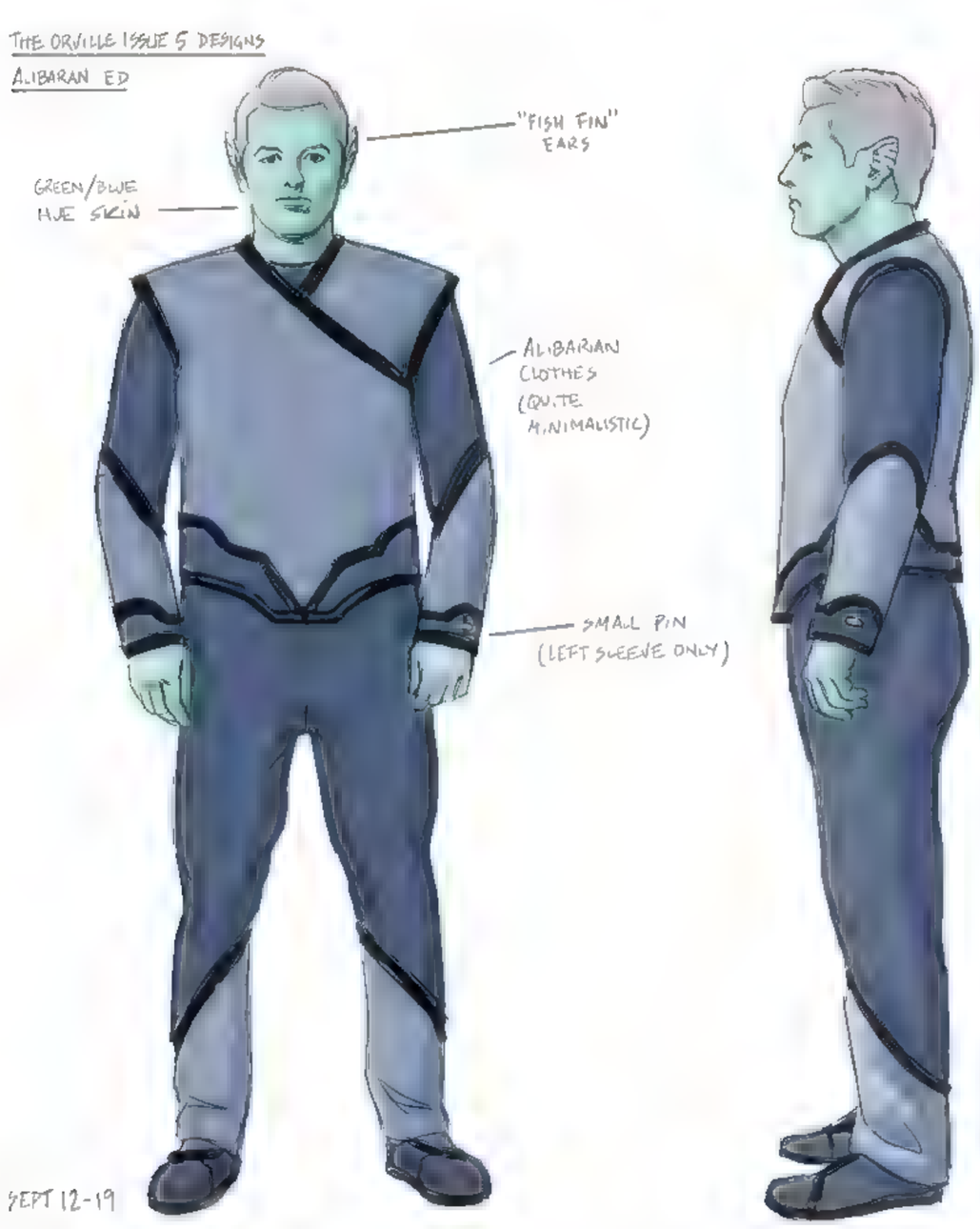
WHAT DID WE DO TO THAT POOR GIRL?

WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. THEY DID IT. AND NOW SHE'S THE HERO.

AN OLD BOOK THE CAPTAIN GAVE ME SAID THAT THERE ARE NO HEROES. THAT IN LIFE...

...THE MONSTERS WIN.

EARLY SKETCHES BY DAVID CABEZA



ISSUE 7 DESIGNS

OKUDUM CLAIRE

MARCH 31, 2020

FRONT BACK

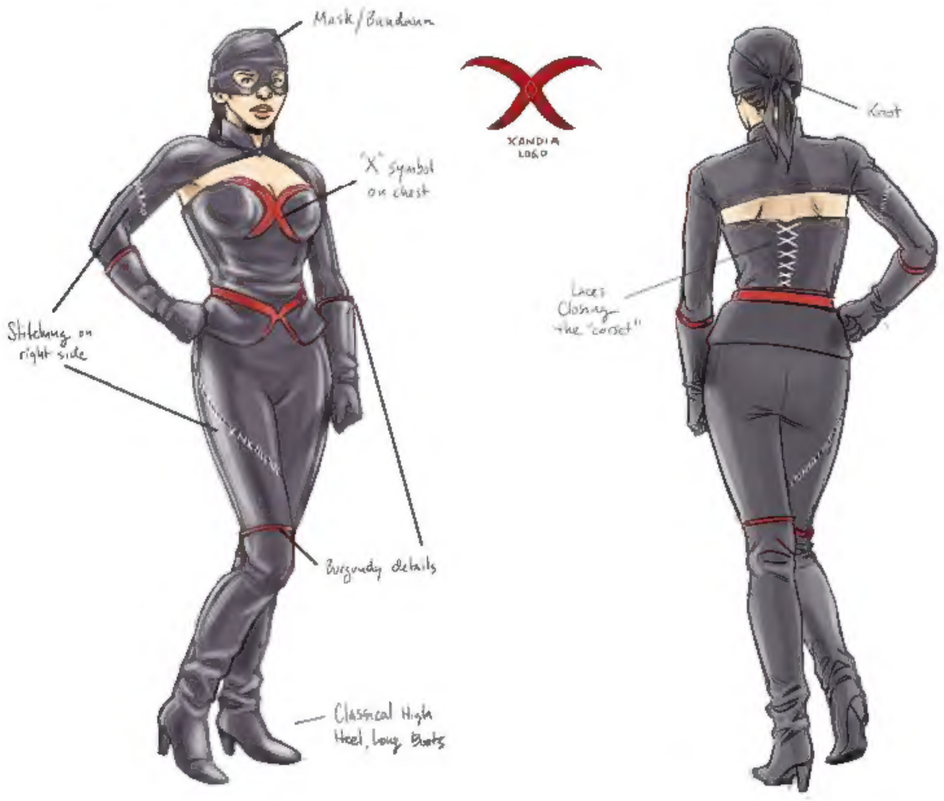
ISSUE 7 DESIGNS

OKUDUM TALLA

MARCH 29, 2020

FRONT BACK

"XANDIA"

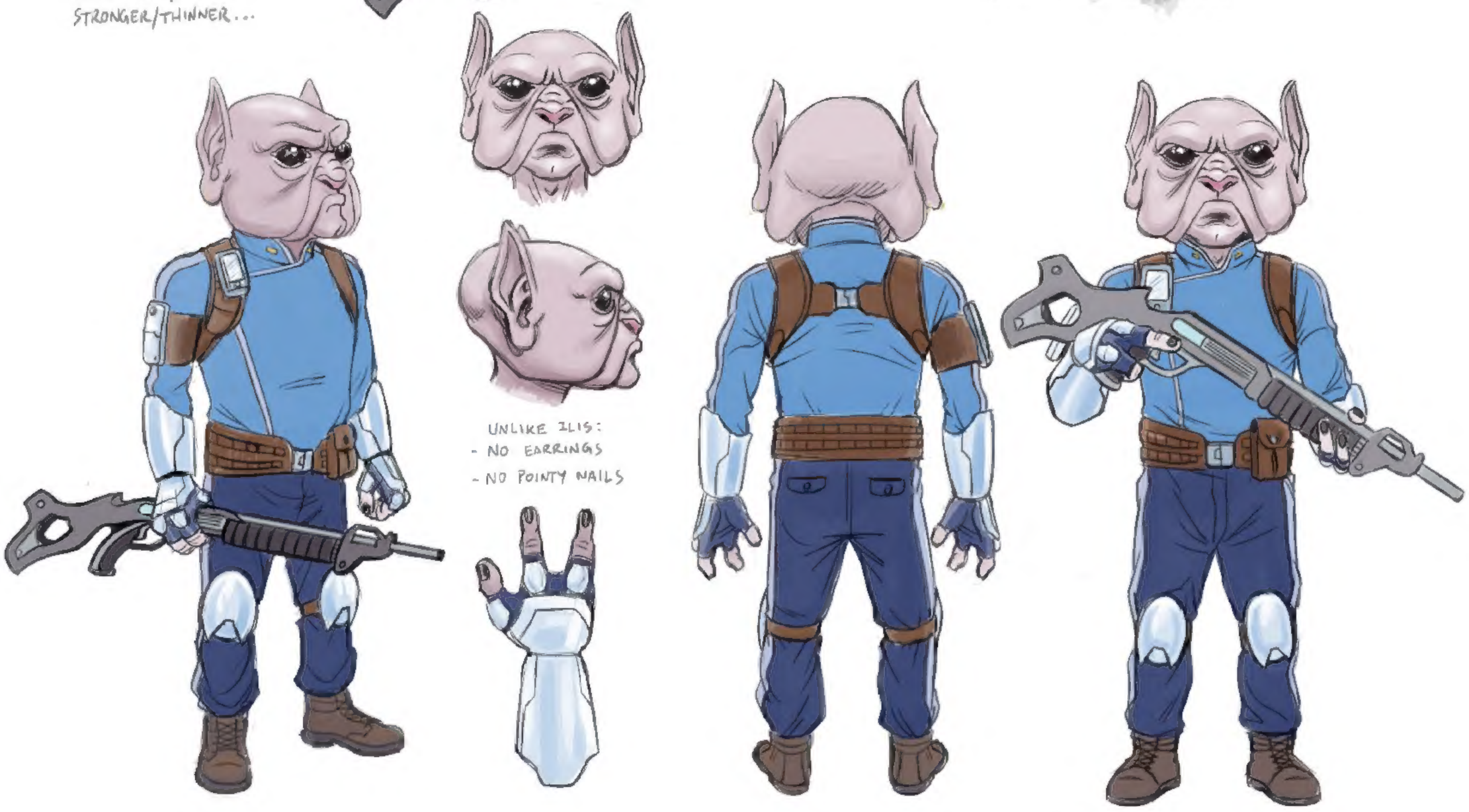


The Orville #7&#8

NAZH SOLDIERS CONCEPT

BASE DESIGN.
NAZH SOLDIERS CAN BE A BIT TALLER/SMALLER STRONGER/THINNER...

GUN



UNLIKE ILIS:
- NO EARRINGS
- NO POINTY NAILS

ISSUE 7 DESIGNS

OKUDUM JOHN

MARCH 31, 2020

FRONT

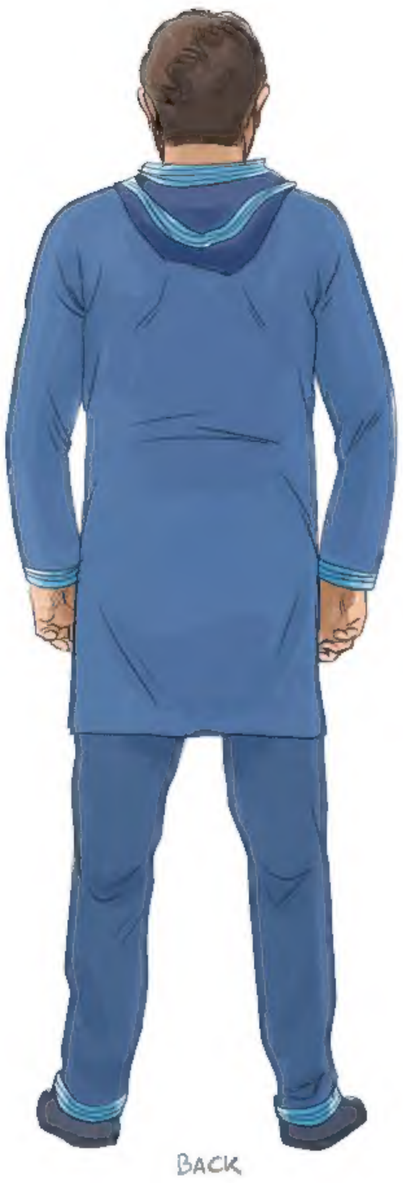
BACK

ISSUE 7 DESIGNS

OKUDUM ED

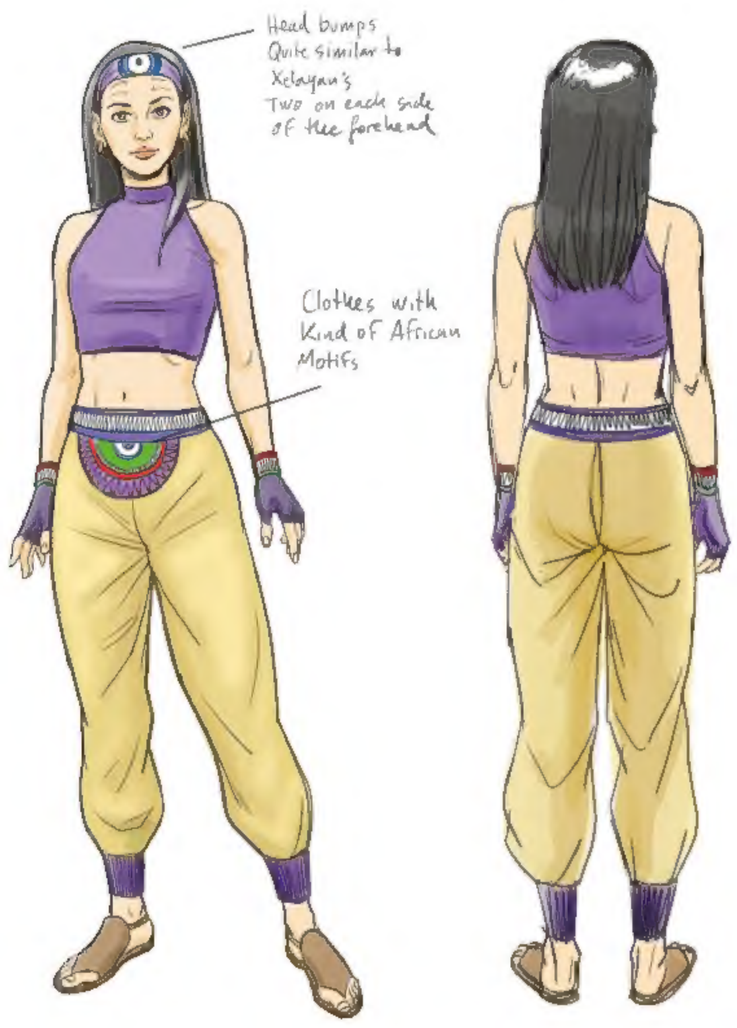
MARCH 29, 2020

FRONT



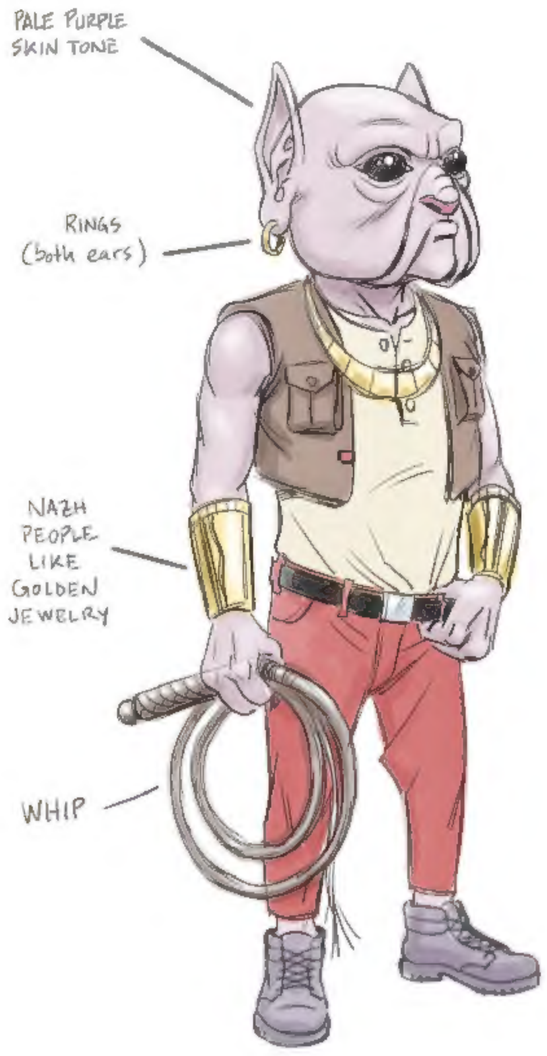
BACK

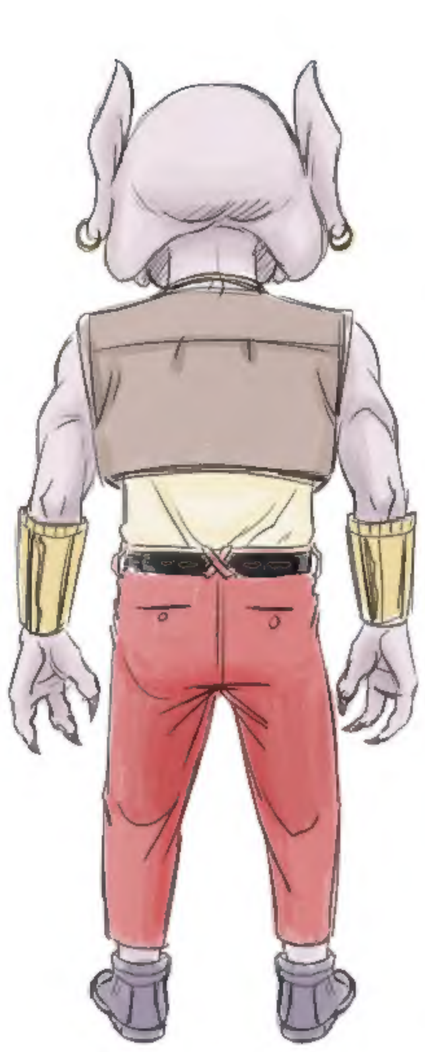
AKI as a teenager



The Orville #7 & #8

ILIS, THE TASKMASTER, NAZH



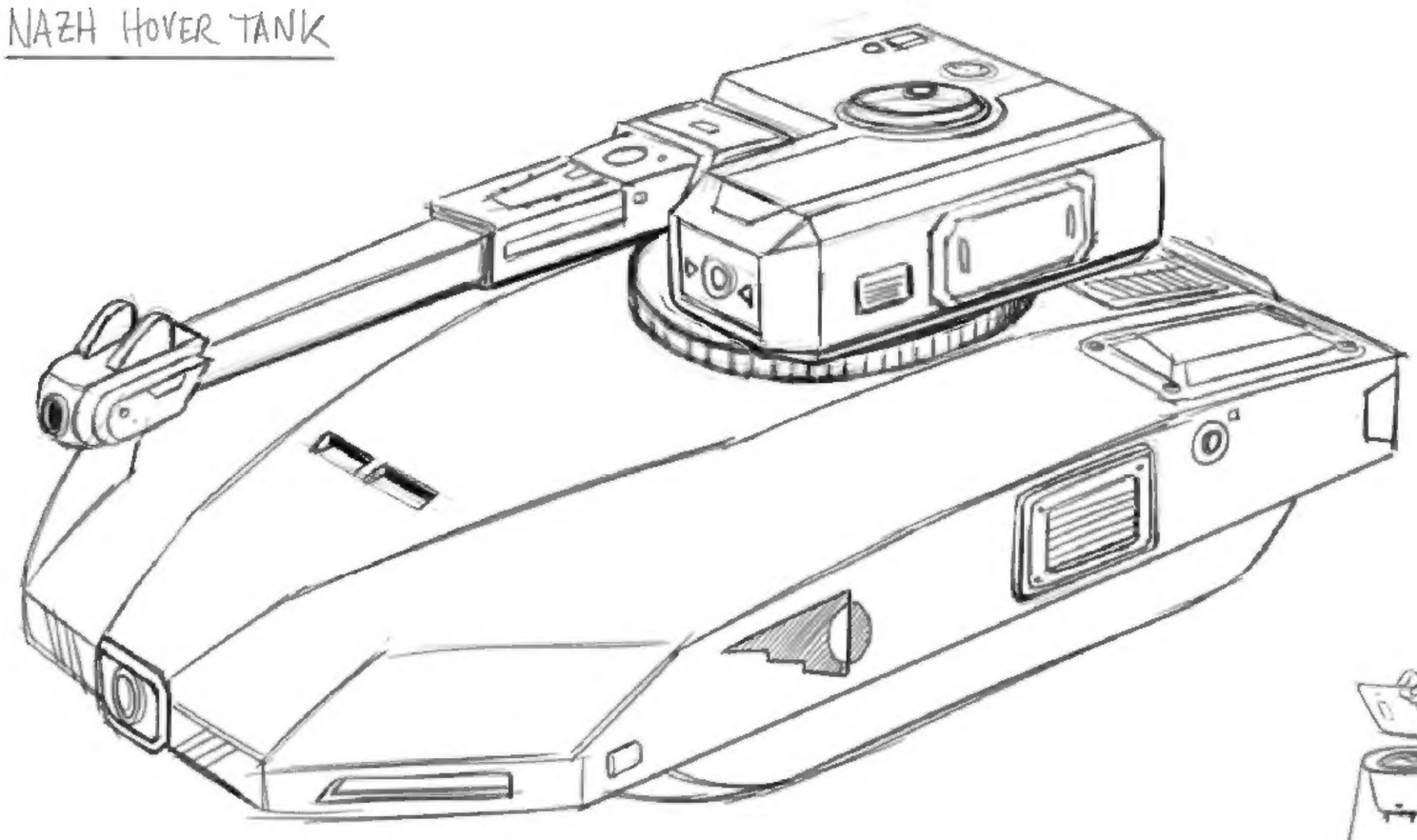


AKI as a 12 y/o girl

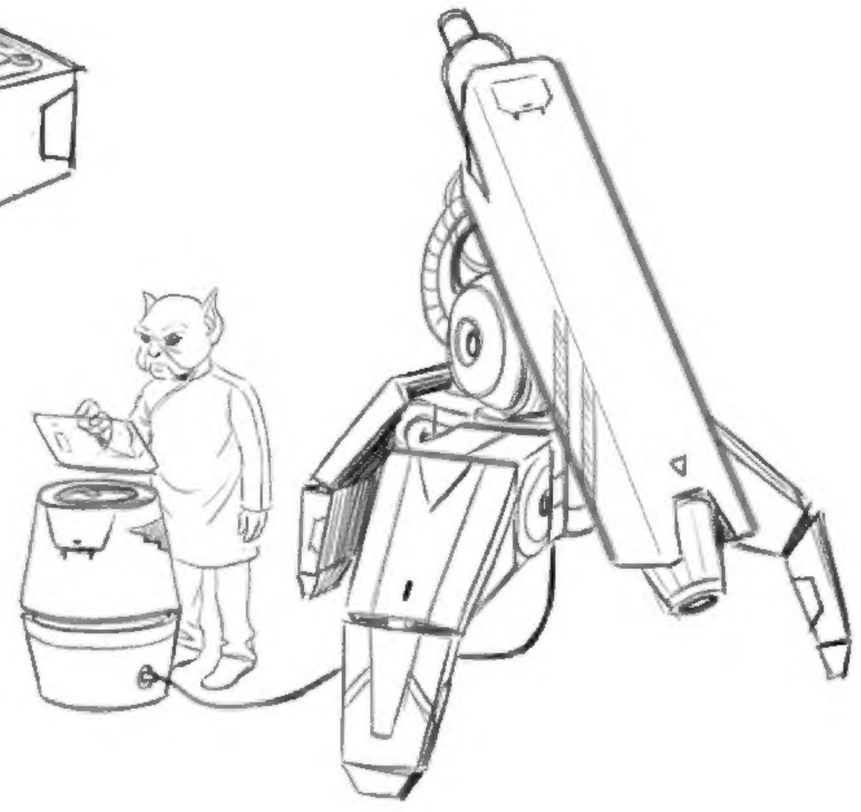
AKI as XANDIA

Similar colors to
Talla as Xandia
(Black + Burgundy)

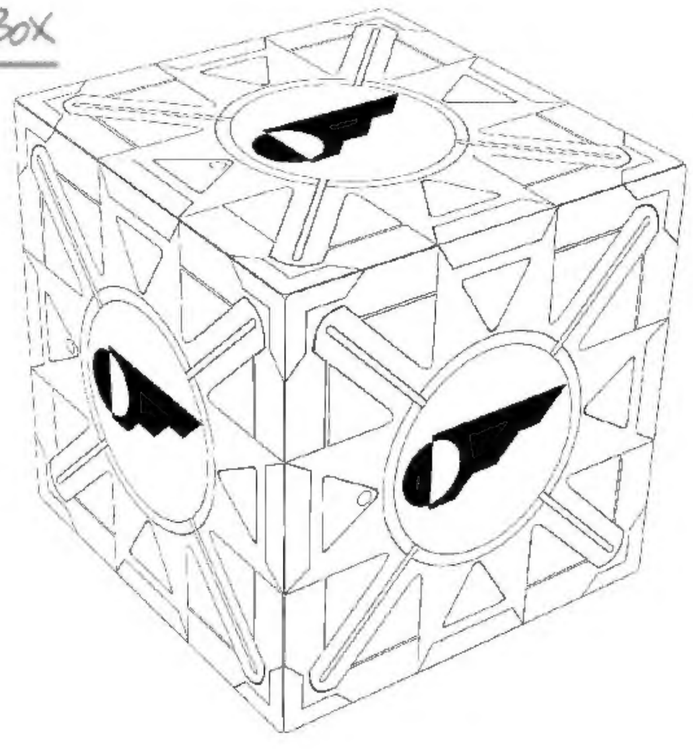
NAZH HOVER TANK



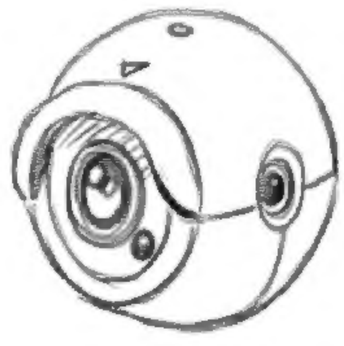
NAZH TRIPOD BEAM DRILL



NAZH'S DYSONIUM STORAGE BOX



UNION SPY ORB

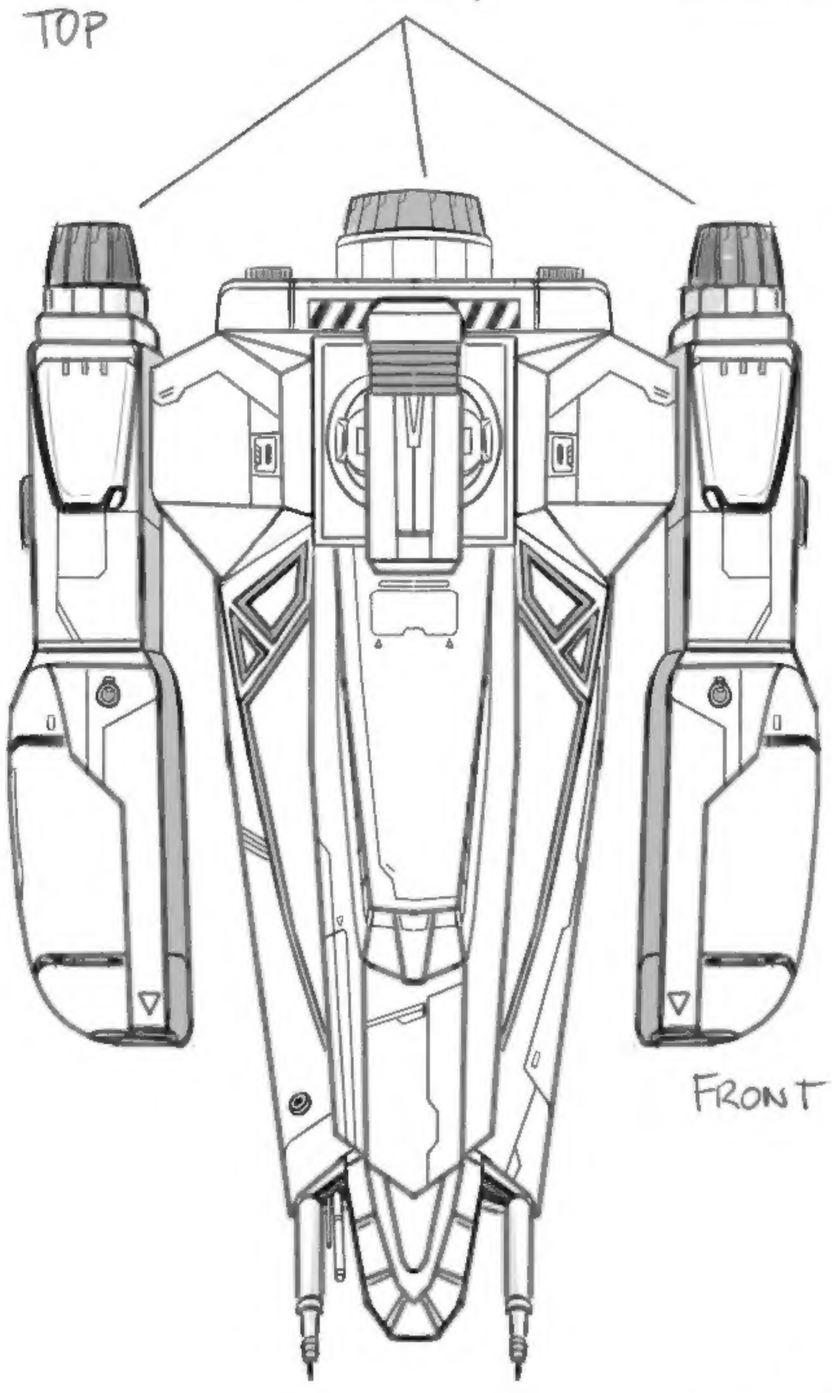


NAZH SHIP V.2.

Mainly in reds, with some details on yellow & white

TOP

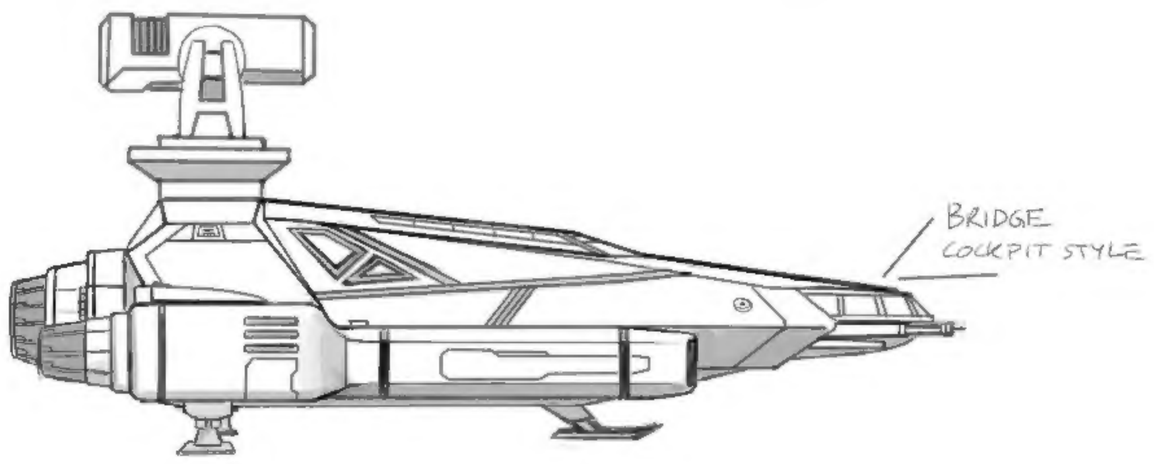
3 ENGINES



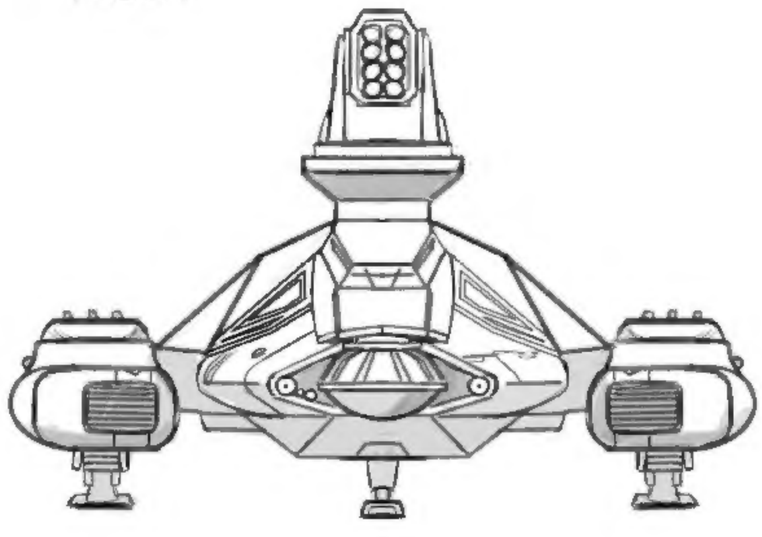
SIDE

ROTATING DIGGING WEAPON

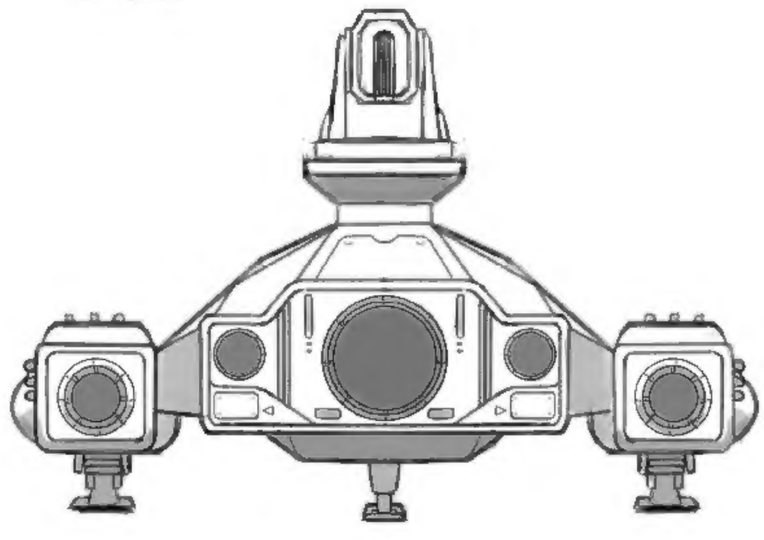
BRIDGE COCKPIT STYLE



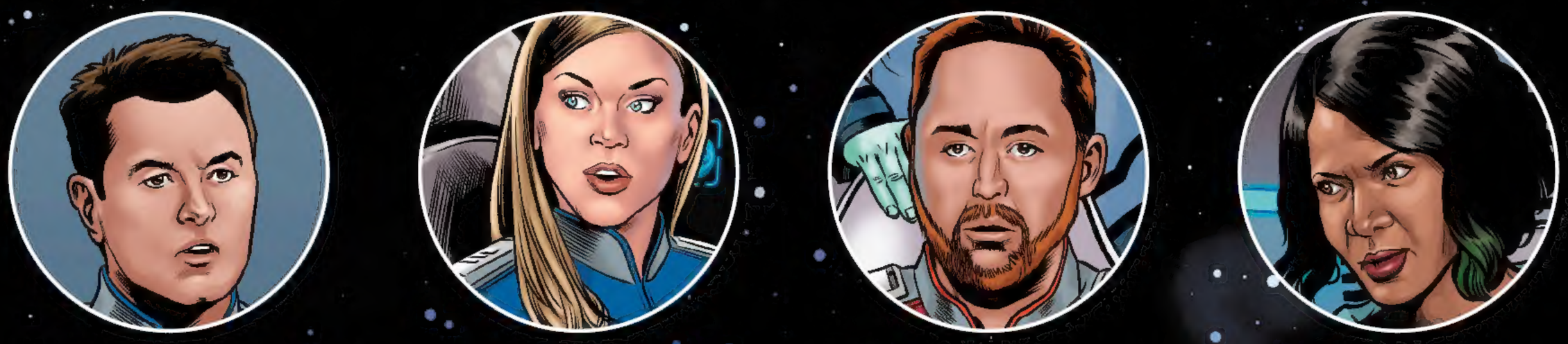
FRONT



BACK



COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / Media Tie-In



THE ORVILLE™

SEASON 2.5 | LAUNCH DAY

Board the starship *Orville* for two new missions set between seasons 2 and 3 of Seth MacFarlane's hit sci-fi TV show! Written by executive producer David A. Goodman!

In "Launch Day," when seemingly hostile Krill ships cross into Union space, the *Orville* intercepts. Ed learns they are en route to a planet that left the Planetary Union decades ago under mysterious circumstances. Scans have discovered a moon-sized construct in the system, and the Krill intend a preemptive strike against the presumed weapon. But is it?

In "Heroes," Lieutenant Talla Keyali returns to a planet she surveyed as an ensign when a quantum signature on the surface suggests significant technological advances since her last visit. Instead, she discovers a spacefaring species has subjugated the locals, transforming their once idyllic society into a grim mining operation. Stymied by the Union's hesitance to provoke hostilities, Talla must consider how far she's willing to go to help these people and the repercussions of doing so.

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